

REMARKS

1. Rejection of claims 1-6, and 14-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Lahrmann et al., U.S. Patent 5,425970, (hereafter "Lahrmann" or "970").

In the Advisory Action mailed November 7, 2003, it was stated that Applicants had amended claim 1 to define that component (a2) had substantially no functional groups activatable by UV radiation. Applicants have amended the claim in this response to define that the component (a2) has no functional groups activatable by UV radiation.

Applicants submit that amended claim 1 is patentable over Lahrmann. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

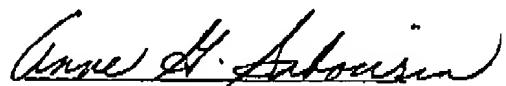
2. Rejection of claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over DE 99 141, (hereafter "144").

Applicants submit comparative examples to support non-obviousness of the present invention over the '144 reference. Applicants have prepared comparative examples showing the criticality of the ratio of the sum of NCO reactive groups on the thermally crosslinkable and on the radiation crosslinkable to NCO groups that must be less than 1.30.

Coatings according to the example set forth in DE '144 were prepared and analyzed to determine the ratio of the sum of NCO reactive groups on the thermally crosslinkable and on the radiation crosslinkable to NCO groups. This ratio was found to be 1.8. In contrast, Coatings according to the present invention had a ratio of less than 1.3. The invention example, corresponding to Ex. 4 of the application had a ratio of 0.9. Coatings were tested for adhesion performance following gravel stone chip testing. Paint adhesion following testing was proven to be far superior for the coating having a ratio of 0.9 as compared to the ratio of 1.8 of the '144 reference sample.

Applicants submit that the comparative examples support a showing of unexpected results and non-obviousness over the prior art. Accordingly, removal of the rejection on the basis of the '144 reference and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



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